monwealth of Independent States during this year from India mainly through the loans being paid by Government of India;

(b) whether Government have any details of the exporter of tobacco who have secured such orders;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any effort has been made to encourage tobacco exporters during this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) to (c) As per information received from the Tobacco Board in the current financial year, Russia has so far contracted for import 19000 tonnes of FCV tobacco by utilising the adhoc advance extended by the Government of India, Russia has awarded these contracts to about 27 exporters for quantities ranging from 100 MTs to 3000 MTs.

(d) The steps taken to promote exports of tobacco include :—

—General policy measures like unification of exchange rate and reduction in interest on export credit etc. to encourage exports;

—Visit of trade delegation led by Chairman, Tobacco Board to Russia in April, 93 for promoting export of tobacco;

—Encouraging exporters to establish their overseas offices in Russia and other CIS republics for promotion of exports;

—Granting permission to exporters for shipment of tobacco for stocks and sale operation as a special case by the R. B. I.;

—Participation in international exhibitions jointly with exporters to publicise their products.

Proposal for revamping MMTC and STC

2147. SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM :
DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for revamping the State Trading Corporation and Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) Consequent on the decanalisation of the import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC and MMTC, Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient and re-structure these Corporations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and a competitive environment. The Corporations themselves are also in the process of formulating and implementing plans and strategins to adapt to the current environment.

Demand and Production of Castor Oil

2148. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL :
SHRI SANGH PRIYA GAUTAM :
DR. NAUNIHAL SINGH :
SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an upsurge in world demand for castor oil, more than 50 per cent of which is being met by India; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government would gear upto this boom by increasing its share by regulating domestic consumption as a major part of which is used in adulteration of edible oil;

(c) whether Government would take advantage of the expertise gained by India Oil and Produce Exporters Association and involve them deeply in the promotion of castor oil exports; and

(d) the total production of castor oil during the last three years alongwith its domestic demand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) Yes Sir. As per information with the Basic Chemical, Pharmaceuticals & Cosmetics Export Promotion Council (CHEMEXIL) Bombay, out of a total world Castor oil demand, India's share is more than 60% at present.